COTE D'IVOIRE: Y.J. CHOI GOES TO ABOBO TO HELP PROTECT CIVILIANS

As part of UNOCI's mandate to protect civilians, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, went to the PK 18 area of Abidjan neighbourhood of Abobo, between Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

The chief of the United Nations Operation in Côte d' Ivoire (UNOCI), wanted to assess the security situation in the area which had significantly deteriorated in recent days.

His mission was carried out following violent confrontations which started on Tuesday between security forces from President Laurent Gbagbo's camp and civilians supporting President Alassane Ouattara. Mr. Choi wanted to ensure the protection of the civilian population which was at risk of human rights violations carried out by the forces of the Gbagbo camp.

Earlier, the security forces from President Gbagbo's camp had announced a curfew from 7p.m to 6a.m in the neighbourhood, which is situated in the north of Abidjan.

Mr. Choi was accompanied by other officials of the Mission, including the Force Commander, Major-General Abdul Hafiz, and patrols by peacekeepers.

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